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Feature Articles

[Campus Computing News](#)

Dr. Maurice Leatherbury, Senior Director of Academic Computing Services, continues to provide you with updates on campus computing. This month you'll find out more about UNT's plans with regard to Internet 2, our recent Internet bandwidth upgrade, and how popular our central Web site has become.

[GroupWise 5.2 Calendar: The Basics](#)

The most requested feature of GroupWise, besides creating and reading mail, is the calendar. This article will help you to make better use of this very useful tool!

[Change in GroupWise Remote Access](#)

You probably won't miss the asynchronous gateway that is being removed in March, but its demise is directly related to the added features available in GroupWise 5. Read this article for more details.

[New Student E-mail Server May Require Changes to Your E-mail Client](#)

Student E-mail services will be moving to a faster and more powerful system soon. If you use an E-mail client other than Simeon to read your mail, you will need to make some changes within

your client to reflect this move.

[RSS Matters: New
Generations of Statistical
Applications](#)

This article marks the beginning of a new column from the folks in Research and Statistical Support Services. This month's column focuses on SAS 7.0 and its many exciting new features, including the ability to automatically translate all SAS output into HTML.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

If you liked the original...

If you had to pinpoint a trend in popular film for the latter part of this century the fondness for producing sequels would certainly be noticeable. It's not that the sequel was invented in the last 25 years. It's just that it has definitely been overused. We've seen six Star Trek (original series) films, a contemporary sequel to *Gone with the Wind*, a handful of *Lethal Weapon* spin-offs and over 500 *Rocky* films. Some sequels are an improvement. For example, discriminating geeks everywhere will agree that Star Trek II was much better than the first movie of the same series (popular wisdom is that all the even numbered Star Trek films are better than the odd numbered ones). On the other hand, many, if not most sequels do not measure up to their original models. Who will remotely remember *Speed II* and who can justify the making of a sequel to *Caddyshack*?

Computer technology sequels are even more frequent than film sequels, except with computers we call them upgrades. Sometimes it's hard to tell if the sequel is an improvement over the original. The usual elements are there, but they supposedly act better. The difference with technology is that its ongoing march makes upgrades, if not necessary, for the most part desirable. There can be no argument that computer technology is more ubiquitous and usable than it was 20 years ago. If you doubt that improvement, let's play a round of *pick up and reorder the punch cards* some time. The latest addition to the computer technology arena is the Internet, and the demands placed upon it are quickly outpacing the protocols and data transport schemes upon which it was developed. This can only mean one thing. It's time for Internet2!

The next generation Internet?

Internet2 exists. Well, it almost exists. The Internet2 project is a cooperative effort by a number of U.S. universities and research centers which hopes to promote the development of new networking and application technologies in support of the needs of the academic community (soon to include UNT — see "[Internet 2 at UNT](#)" from "Campus Computing News" in the [January](#) issue and "[Campus Computing News](#)" from this issue of [Benchmarks Online](#)). The first baby steps of this new network will be taken by the end of this month when the high-speed network project named Abilene begins to route traffic across thousands of miles of fiber-optic cable. Access to Internet2 will be limited to academic and research institutions. To understand the rationale in this regard, you need to study some of your Internet history.

The Prequels*

It all began as a research project to see if there was a way to preserve a working communications network in the event of a nuclear war. Arpanet was a U.S. Department of Defense project which eventually linked academic and research institutions involved in military research. Many of the Internet communication methods (or protocols) that are still in common use on today's Internet were developed back in the early Arpanet days of the 1970s. At the same time, the development of computer communications networks such as BITNET and CSNet encouraged academic interest in wide area networking, linking more

and more scholars around the U.S. and the globe.

The Arpanet was a patchwork of connections between institutions, and in the late 1980s, the National Science Foundation funded the NSFNet, a high-speed (for then) network backbone to link the many academic and research institutions which had become members of Arpanet as well as additional institutions interested in this new technology. NSFNet further spurred the development of new protocols and applications. In fact, the National Center for Supercomputer Applications (NCSA) came up with a program called Mosaic, which ran on systems employing a graphical user interface (at the time, UNIX X Windows systems, Macintoshes, and a bit later on a fledgling PC-based program called Windows 3.0). Mosaic was the first widely used World Wide Web browser, and was the basis for further developments including a little program now called Netscape® (just think -- if it hadn't been for that government research funding, you'd probably be reading this article using your favorite Gopher client).

By the early 1990s, NSFNet had begun to route some commercial traffic, some commercial Internet service providers had begun to appear, and it was apparent that this Internet thing was a must see. In 1993, NSFNet got out of the business of being the primary carrier of Internet traffic, and the era of the expanding commercial Internet had begun. For many of us in the academic community, by this time the Internet was a familiar tool. The "gee whiz" factor had long worn off and we'd seen many of the amazing things that are done inside today's Internet browser windows as people's research projects posted on the Internet as shareware or freeware to try out. It was a very active academic and research community which laid the foundation for the Internet we know today.

Enter Internet2

It's been about 6 years since the Internet went commercial, and it's already almost obsolete. I heard a recent statistic that 50% of all U.S. households owned personal computers and the growth in home computing is almost directly attributable to the Internet. (An aside — I find it particularly ironic that Ken Olsen, founder of the Digital Equipment Corporation was attributed as saying that there was no need for anyone to have a computer in their home, and now that company he founded is owned by Compaq, a company that makes personal computers.) As more people use the Internet, more addresses are needed and more "bandwidth" is needed to support the increased amount of information moving over the network (think of bandwidth as a pipe; the larger the pipe, the more that can flow through; in other words, the larger the pipe, the faster your teapot fills with water; the greater the bandwidth, the faster those graphics can be transmitted to your browser screen). It's not just the number of people using the Internet that is straining it's ability to function, but it is also the format of information which is being transmitted — digital video, for example geometrically increases the amount of information transmitted.

Internet2 limits access to academia in order to spur the development of technology which will solve some of the problems happening on the Internet. In fact, one of the requirements for joining is a commitment to contribute to the development of new protocols and networking technologies. Abilene's corporate sponsors, Cisco, Nortel, and Qwest Communications International, have donated equipment and resources in the hopes of benefiting from these new developments. For example, network multicasting (kind of like airwave broadcasting) can cut down on consumed bandwidth by making one video stream available to any computer "listening" on the network. Quality of Service protocols may help ensure an uninterrupted data stream for those applications that require it (you really don't want that patented Internet pause in the middle of a remotely-guided surgical procedure). Internet2 will also help develop the next version of the Internet Protocol (the IP in TCP/IP), among other things, geometrically increasing the number of addresses which can be

supported on the network.

The Early Reviews...

While Internet2 has been in the formation stage for at least a year or more, the start of operations of the Abilene network backbone makes this project even more of a reality. Having a live and technologically advanced network on which to test some theories will go a long way towards developing new Internet technologies. It is too soon, however, to tell what impact this project will have on the future Internet. It may not be possible (or desirable) to recreate the tumultuous and sometimes unorganized environment which spurred the development of the Internet software we commonly use today. It is certain that some process will need to affect change in this area of technology in order for the Internet to remain a growing, vibrant, and useful resource. Still, if Internet2 isn't a hit, I guess we can always wait for ***BITNET IV: THE REAWAKENING***.

* For a trip down memory lane see "[The End of the Original Internet](#)" that appeared in the March/April 1995 issue of *Benchmarks NewsJournal*.. Also, The Internet Society's "[A Brief History of the Internet](#)" is fascinating reading and "[Hobbes' Internet Timeline v4.0](#)" helps put it all in perspective.

Comments, Questions? Send them to [Philip Baczewski](#).

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List of the Month

Each month we highlight one Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list.

MovieWatchers Mailing List

According to the list owner, the MovieWatchers Mailing list is "a place for all us movie lovers out there to talk about our favorite pastime, movies! From new releases to old classics we'll talk about the movies we'll talk about all our favorite movies."

To subscribe send a blank e-mail to MovieWatchers-subscribe@onelist.com To subscribe via your Web browser, visit:

<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/MovieWatchers>

List owner: Cindy Greenlee Cin7out@aol.com

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WWW@UNT.EDU

By [Mark Wilcox](#), Campus Web Administrator

Are We There Yet?

Every family car trip has at least one occurrence of this phrase "Are We There Yet?". It also seems to be a fitting question for computers and the Internet.

Of course the answer is "No". We're not there yet. In fact I don't even think we know where we are really going. For all we know, we have already been "there" and left.

1998 saw some leaps forward on the Web and I think 1999 will continue along the same lines, unless the [Year2000 bug](#) soaks up every available computing resource to fix it.

The following improvements need to be made for things on the Internet to progress smoothly:

- **Improve Connectivity** -- We need to improve the speeds at which people connect to the Internet from home. Once this is accomplished, we can truly offer interactive services including 2 way video.
- **Improve Reliability** -- Too often we put up with computers that crash on us at least once or twice a day. We spend too much money to buy these things and spend way too much time doing work-arounds to make up for short-sightedness and sloppy workmanship.
- **Improve Usability** -- Just because your computer has a GUI interface doesn't mean it's easier to use. Sometimes it's just the opposite. On the Web it's even worse because there is no consistency. You may not really care for the Mac or Win95 GUI, but at least they are consistent. The Web will have to develop a consistent interface for it really to become the dominant interface to computing for the future.
- **Improve Privacy and Security** -- Just about any site that you make purchases on requires you to send some information about yourself. Many sites also require this for personalization. Who has control over this information and who can see it? These questions need to be answered before we allow even more rapid commercialization.

Until next time.

Mark

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Editor*

Spring Short Courses started February 4. There is still time up to sign up for classes in SAS Programming, Mapping Data Using SAS and Excel, SPSS Programming, Electronic Mail Using Simeon, Creating a Homepage with Netscape and Creating a Homepage with FrontPage. Follow [this link](#) for course descriptions and registration.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#). The Center for Distributed Learning is offering courses especially for Faculty Members. Topics include Windows 95, PowerPoint, Video Conferencing, and a series of classes concerning putting course materials on the World Wide Web using WebCT.

The UNT Libraries' Multimedia Development Lab is also offering free training to all University of North Texas faculty and staff in the basics of FrontPage 98 and information architecture. Training will be held on Fridays from 1-4 p.m. through May 7 in the Willis Library Learning Center. For more information visit the Multimedia Development Lab's home page at <http://www.library.unt.edu/mmdl>.

Technical Training for campus network managers is available through the Campus-Wide Networks division of the Computing Center. Some of the [seminars](#), such as one on disaster recovery/business continuity planning techniques, may be of interest to others on campus as well.

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. There are also handouts for computer training (Microsoft Office 97 and Windows 95) on the following topics:

- GroupWise 5.2 -- Handout for Win95/NT
- FAQ for GroupWise 5.2
- Info on GroupWise for Win3.1

- Computers - Back to the Basics
- Introduction to Windows 95
- Introduction to Word 97
- Advanced Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to Excel 97
- Introduction to PowerPoint 97
- Introduction to Remedy (THE Call-Tracking Program)
- Using Netscape Communicator and the UNT Home Page

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IRC News

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary



IRC Regular Voting Members: Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Walter Bowen, Academic Administration; Bill Buntain, Communications Program Group; Sue Byron, Faculty Senate; Carolyn Cunningham, Student Affairs; Paul Dworak, College of Music and Standards & Cooperation Program Group; Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Allen Livingston, Graduate Student Council; Dennis Mueller, Research Program Group (on Sabbatical); Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Steve Oeffner, UNT Health Science Center Russ Pensyl, School of Visual Arts; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Jim Poirot College of Education; Mark Rorvig, Research Program Group (acting for Dennis Mueller who is on Sabbatical); Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Neal Tate, University Planning Council; Philip Turner, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs for Distance Education and Dean of the School of Library and Information Resources (Chair, IRC); Virginia Wheeless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** Leslie Bowden, Telecommunications; Wil Clark, GALMAC; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Michael Forster, UNT Health Science Center; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary). [As of 11/98]

No new IRC minutes were available at publication time. To see past IRC minutes, consult our [back issues](#).

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. An exception to that schedule will occur in March of 1999 when it will meet on the second Tuesday to accommodate the Spring Break schedule.

All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Smita Makthal**, part-time I/O Consultant.
- **Satish Pudi** , part-time I/O Consultant.
- **Jeannie Lee**, returning part-time Clerical Assistant.
- **Al Johnson**, part-time CPU Operator.
- **Tim Largen**, part-time CPU Operator.
- **Lishawa Jackson**, part-time CPU Operator.
- **Therman Watson**, part-time CPU Operator.
- **Anne Fiedler**, Campus Information Operator.
- **Yan Boon** (Philea), part-time I/O Consultant.

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- **Jatiri Bavishi**, part-time CPU operator.
- **Shahnaz Chowdhury**, part-time I/O Consultant.
- **Wanda Fields**, part-time CPU Operator.
- **Nanda Hindupur**, part-time CPU operator.
- **Shawkat Imran**, part-time I/O Consultant.
- **Moses Omane-Boateng**, CPU Operator
- **Jerry Waldon**, retired from his position as a Systems Programmer/Analyst in IBM Operating Systems Software Support after 34+ years with the UNT Computing Center.

Promotions, Transfers, and Other Changes

- **Amy Durham**, changed positions from University Information Operator to CPU operator.
- **Shannon Leach**, changed positions from part-time Clerical Assistant to Print Services Supervisor in Production Control.
- **Luanne Linke**, left her position as a Programmer/Analyst for Database/Central Programming Support to assume [Jerry Waldon's](#)

position as a Systems Programmer/Analyst in IBM Operating Systems Software Support.

Awards

- **Kenn Moffitt**, ACS Central Web Support Web Developer, was honored as a Soaring Eagle in the February 1999 *Human Resources Newsletter*.

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By [Randal Milholland](#), Documentation Assistant



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- **Subscribe to the *Benchmarks Online* Mailing List** -- If you would like to know when the latest issue is available and get a preview of it's contents, you can subscribe to the **Benchmarks Online** mailing list, unt-benchmarks. To subscribe to this list just send mail to listserv@unt.edu and in the body of the message put the command:

SUBscribe unt-benchmarks *your name*

For example: SUBscribe unt-benchmarks Jane Doe

To **Unsubscribe**:

1. Send the e-mail to listserv@unt.edu
2. In the body of the message type:

Signoff unt-benchmarks

3. Send.

- **Search *Benchmarks Online*** -- If you are looking for a specific topic you might want to search through the issues. Use the form below to search for documents containing specific words or combinations of words. The text search engine will display a weighted list of matching documents, with better matches shown first. Each list item is a link to a matching document; if the document has a title it will be shown, otherwise only the document's file name is displayed. For more information, see this brief [explanation](#) of the query language, along with examples.

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